UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

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VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE IN REM

COMES NOW, Plaintiff the United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Jeffrey B. Jensen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Kyle T. Bateman, Assistant United States Attorneys for said district, and for its Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* states as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. This is a civil action *in rem* brought by the United States seeking forfeiture of all right, title, and interest in the above-captioned defendant property pursuant to pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(A) and (C).
- 2. The defendant property was seized by law enforcement on or about April 2, 2018, and is described more fully as: thirty-six thousand, four hundred thirty two dollars (\$36,432.00) in United States currency.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1345, 1355, and 1395.
- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1355(b)(1)(A) because the acts and omissions giving rise to forfeiture took place in the Eastern District of Missouri. Venue is also proper pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1395(b) because the defendant currency was seized in the Eastern District of Missouri.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

- 5. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) authorizes the civil forfeiture of "all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of this subchapter, all proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this subchapter."
- 6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) criminalizes conducting or attempting to conduct a financial transaction, including transferring, delivering, or other disposition, involving the movement of funds, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, with the intent to promote the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity.
- 7. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i) criminalizes conducting or attempting to conduct a financial transaction, including transfer, delivery, or other disposition,

involving the movement of funds, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, knowing that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity.

- 8. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A), any property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of section 1956 of Title 18, or any property traceable to such property, is subject to civil forfeiture.
- 9. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952 criminalizes traveling in interstate commerce with the intent to distribute the proceeds of any unlawful activity, including a business enterprise involving controlled substances, or otherwise promoting, managing, establishing, carry on, or facilitating the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on, of such unlawful activity.
- 10. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952 is subject to civil forfeiture.

FACTS GIVING RISE TO FORFEITURE

- 11. Jovan Ignjatovic ("Ignjatovic") is a resident of Eureka, California.
- 12. Ignjatovic has previously been arrested in Pennsylvania for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances.

- 13. On or about March 30, 2018, Ignjatovic purchased an airline ticket for a flight from St. Louis, Missouri, to Eureka, California, through San Francisco, California. The flight was scheduled to depart on April 2, 2018.
- 14. On April 2, 2018, at the St. Louis-Lambert International Airport, within the Eastern District of Missouri, law enforcement officers approached Ignjatovic while he was waiting to board his scheduled flight. When officers approach, Ignjatovic had two carry-on bags in his possession, including a backpack and a duffle bag.
- 15. Officers asked Ignjatovic if he had any large amounts of U.S. currency with him, and Ignjatovic stated that he was traveling with around \$40,000.
- 16. When Ignjatovic opened his wallet to provide identification to officers, officers observed what appeared to be a large quantity of U.S. currency inside.
- 17. At the officers' request, Ignjatovic placed his bags on the ground. A trained, certified, and reliable drug detection canine was deployed to conduct a sniff of the bags. The canine alerted positively to the presence of a controlled substance on the bags.
- 18. Ignjatovic consented to a search of his bags. Inside the backpack, officers discovered several white envelopes containing bundles of U.S. currency
- 19. The U.S. currency inside Ignjatovic's wallet and backpack was later counted and determined to be \$36,432.00 (the "defendant property").
 - 20. Ignjatovic told officers that he was employed by a real estate firm.
- 21. Ignjatovic told officers that he was travelling back home to California, and that he had been in St. Louis, Missouri, for a few days to sell a Yukon Denali. Ignjatovic told officers that his father-in-law drove the Denali to St. Louis, Missouri, from California, and that Ignjatovic

had travelled by airplane. Ignjatovic could not provide the name of his father-in-law or the identity of the man who purchased the Denali.

- 22. Ignjatovic told officers that he was married and provided a name and phone number for his wife. Officers called the number and spoke to a female who claimed that Ignjatovic was with her at home. When officers stated that Ignjatovic was in St. Louis, Missouri, the woman said that she forgot that Ignjatovic was out of town to buy farm equipment. The woman told officers that her father was with her in California the previous day to celebrate Easter.
- 23. Ignjatovic then admitted to officers that he owns a marijuana farm in California, and that he had travelled to St. Louis, Missouri, and Louisville, Kentucky, to collect debts from marijuana sales. Ignjatovic stated that the defendant property is proceeds that he collected from marijuana sales.
- 24. Ignjatovic had two cellular devices on his person. Ignjatovic consented to a search of the devices. On the devices, officers discovered text messages related to marijuana sales and collecting debts for marijuana sales.
- 25. Ignjatovic signed a Disclaimer of Ownership of Assets and Waiver of Rights to Notice of Seizure form stating that the defendant property came into his possession from collecting a debt.

<u>COUNT ONE – FORFEITURE</u> 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6)

26. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 to 25 above as if fully set forth herein.

27. The defendant property was discovered in a backpack being carried by Ignjatovic while he attempted to travel from St. Louis, Missouri, to California, which is a known narcotics source area. A trained narcotics canine alerted positively to the presence of a controlled substance on Ignjatovic's backpack. Ignjatovic admitted to law enforcement officers that he owns a marijuana farm and that the defendant property is proceeds from marijuana sales. Finally, officers discovered text messages on Ignjatovic's cellular devices related to marijuana sales.

28. The defendant property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) as moneys furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance, or as proceeds traceable to such exchange, and as money used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

<u>COUNT TWO – FORFEITURE</u> 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A)

- 29. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 to 25 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 30. The defendant property is proceeds of an unlawful activity involving controlled substances and was attempted to be transported by and through the Eastern District of Missouri by Ignjatovic with the intent to promote the carrying on of, and to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership or control of, a specified unlawful activity.
- 31. Based on the foregoing, the defendant currency is subject to forfeiture, pursuant to Title 18, United Stated Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A) as property involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, or as property traceable to such property.

<u>COUNT THREE – FORFEITURE</u> 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)

- 32. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 to 25 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. The defendant property is proceeds of an unlawful activity involving controlled substances that travelled with Ignjatovic in interstate commerce with the intent to distribute it, and otherwise promote, manage, establish, carry on, or facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, or carrying on, of an unlawful activity involving controlled substances.
- 34. Based on the foregoing, the defendant currency is subject to forfeiture, pursuant to Title 18, United Stated Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) as property that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States of America prays that a Warrant for Arrest be issued for the defendant property and the defendant property be condemned and forfeited to the United States of America, in accordance with the provisions of law; and that the United States of America be awarded its costs in this action, and have such other relief as provided by law and the nature of the case may require.

Dated: September 18, 2018 Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY B. JENSEN United States Attorney

/s/ Kyle T. Bateman

KYLE T. BATEMAN, #996646DC Assistant United States Attorneys 111 South 10th Street, Suite 20.333 Saint Louis, Missouri 63102 Telephone: (314) 539-2200

VERIFICATION

I, Patrick Welch, hereby verify and declare under penalty of perjury that I am a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, that I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint and know the contents thereof, and that the matters contained in the Verified Complaint are true to my own knowledge and belief.

The sources of my knowledge and information and the grounds of my belief are the official files and records of the United States, information supplied to me by other law enforcement officers, as well as my investigation of this case, together with others, as a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on:

(5

Patrick Welch Task Force Officer

Drug Enforcement Administration

(date)

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS				
	of First Listed Plaintiff KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) Address, and Telephone Number)	NOTE: IN LAN	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	□ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases Only)	TF DEF 1 1	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF incipal Place		
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	1 2			
		Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	1 3	□ 6 □ 6		
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 7360 Other Personal Injury □ 360 Other Personal Injury □ 341 Voting □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 444 Welfare □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice A62 Product Liability - Product Liability □ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability □ 370 Other Fraud □ 370 Other Presonal □ 385 Other Personal □ 385 Property Damage Product Liability □ 360 Other Personal □ 418 Housing/ Accommodations □ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: So General □ 530 General □ 550 Civil Rights	610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
□1 Original □2 R	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from tate Court	Reinstated or Reopened anoth (speci				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	*	Thing (Do not the jurisdiction	ar statutes unless diversity).			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:		
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER			
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY OF RECORD				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # A	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUE	OGE		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service unless diversity.
- Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

plaintiff, v. v. defendant.))) Case No.))
ORIGINAL	FILING FORM
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AN INITIATING A NEW CASE.	ND VERIFIED BY THE FILING PARTY WHEN
THIS CAUSE, OR A SUBSTANTIALLY	Y EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT, WAS
PREVIOUSLY FILED IN THIS COURT AS	CASE NUMBER
AND ASSIGNED TO THE HONORABLE J	UDGE
NEITHER THIS CAUSE, NOR A SUBS	TANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT,
PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS	COURT, AND THEREFORE MAY BE
OPENED AS AN ORIGINAL PROCEEDIN	G.
The undersigned affirms that the informat	ion provided above is true and correct.
Date:	Signature of Filing Porty
	Signature of Filing Party

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No.
)	
THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR)	
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS)	
IN U.S. CURRENCY (\$36,432.00),)	
)	
Defendant.)	

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF PROPERTY

TO: THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Whereas, on September 18, 2018, the United States of America filed a Verified Complaint for Civil Forfeiture in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, against the above-named defendant property, alleging that said property is subject to seizure and civil forfeiture to the United States for the reasons mentioned in the complaint; and

WHEREAS, the defendant property is currently in the possession, custody, or control of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in these circumstances, Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i) directs the Clerk of the Court to issue an arrest warrant in rem for the arrest of the defendant property; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental Rule G(3)(c) provides that the warrant of arrest in rem must be delivered to a person or organization authorized to execute it;

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded to arrest the above-named defendant property by serving a copy of this warrant on the custodian in whose possession, custody, or

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control the property is presently found, and to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain it in your custody until further order of this Court,

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED, promptly after execution of this process, to file the same in this Court with your return thereon, identifying the individuals upon whom copies were served and the manner employed.

GREGORY J. LINHARES, CLERK United States District Court

By:			
Ū	Deputy Clerk		
Date:	:		